Merger of steel companies

552. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to the steel companies to become more efficient and to compete with the companies world over;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) In a deregulated and liberalized environment the Government plays a role of a facilitator only and provides an enabling environment to foster growth of steel industry. The basic objective of the National Steel Policy (NSP) that has been formulated by the Government is to prepare a roadmap for the Indian steel industry in its journey towards reform, restructuring and globalization. The long-term goal of the NSP is that India should become self reliant and globally competitive in the steel sector. Apart from the broad policy statement, the NSP also chalks out specific action points for the Government to achieve the policy objectives.

(b) As regards Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), a PSU under Ministry of Steel, expansion and modernisation of its plant has been taken up to make the company more competitive. Periodical monitoring of its performance at various levels is done to increase efficiency and improve productivity.

Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), the other major PSU under the administrative control of Ministry of Steel, has drawn up a road map "Corporate Plan — 2012" to become cost efficient and increase its competitiveness with the objective of enhancing its position in a growing steel market. Investments of about Rs. 37000/- crores have been planned to achieve hot metal production of 22.5 MT from the existing plants/ units. Efficiency and competitiveness will improve through de-bottlenecking, revamping, modernisation of existing assets and new capacity with state-of-art technology. Growth will be ensured with cost and, quality competitiveness. With the improvement in techno-economic parameters, costs would come down. Quality will improve with improved quality of raw materials, steel and finished products.

(c) Does not arise.

Research for the steel industry

†553. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several organizations are involved in research work for the steel industry sector in the country;

(b) if so, the names of such organizations;

(c) whether Government have decided to introduce new system of research for the development of steel industry of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and average amount being incurred annually on steel research work in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are several organizations engaged in research work for the steel industry in the country. However, some of the prominent organizations carrying out R&D in iron and steel and allied sector are:

(i) Research and Development Centre for Iron and Steel, Steel Authority of India Limited, Ranchi (Jharkhand).

(ii) Tata Steel Ltd., Jamshedpur (Jharkhand).

(iii) National Mineral Development Corporation, Hyderabad (A.P).

(iv) National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur (Jharkhand).

(v) Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar (Orissa)?

(vi) Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (Karnataka).

(vii) Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (W.B.).

(viii) Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (U.P.).

(ix) Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

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†Originai notice of Question was received in Hindi.